

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 22-29 and add new claims 30-42, as follows:

1.-29. (Canceled)

30. (New) A television receiving system comprising :

- a plurality of television receiver mechanisms for receiving a plurality of separate television program signals for producing a plurality of input signal streams;
- a multiplexer mechanism coupled to the television receiver mechanisms for uniquely marking each input signal stream and multiplexing the marked input signal streams into a single combined signal stream;
- a security mechanism receiving the combined signal stream and responsive to the access control of the single combined signal stream and producing an access-allowed combined signal stream;
- a demultiplexer mechanism coupled to the security mechanism for receiving the access-allowed combined signal stream and detecting the unique marking specific to each input signal stream, demultiplexing the access-allowed single combined signal stream into each access allowed input signal stream according to their respective marking, restoring the initial marking into each access-allowed input signal stream, and producing separate television program signals corresponding to the each input signal streams received by the receiver mechanisms; and
- circuitry responsive to at least one of the access-allowed input signal stream for supplying image signals to a television display mechanism for enabling same to produce television images.

31. (New) The television receiving system of claim 1, in which the input signal stream is

formed by a plurality of signal packets each having a synchronisation byte, wherein the multiplexer comprises means to modify the synchronisation byte of the signal packet according to the input signal stream considered and means to replace it with the unique marker pertaining to said input signal stream.

32. (New) The television receiving system of claim 1, wherein the demultiplexer comprises means to retrieve the modified synchronisation byte of the signal packets and means to restore the initial value of the synchronisation byte of each signal packet while assigning the signal packet to the corresponding access-allowed input signal stream.

33. (New) The television receiving system of claim 1, wherein the multiplexer mechanism comprises a first FIFO storage mechanism for receiving signal packets from a first input signal stream; a second FIFO storage mechanism for receiving signal packets from a second input signal stream; and FIFO readout circuitry coupled to the outputs of the first and second FIFO storage mechanisms for reading signal packets from the first and second FIFO storage mechanisms in an interleaved manner for producing the combined signal stream.

34. (New) The television receiving system of claim 4, wherein the FIFO readout circuitry includes control circuitry for enabling each signal packet to be read out only after the packet is fully resident in its FIFO storage mechanism.

35. (New) The television receiving system of claim 1, wherein the input signal streams is in the format of Transport Stream TS.

36. (New) The television receiving system of claim 2, wherein the signal packets are in the MPEG format.

37. (New) Method to control access of a plurality of separate television program signals comprising the steps of :

- receiving a plurality of television program signals for producing a plurality of input signal streams;
- marking uniquely each input signal stream and multiplexing the marked input signal streams into a single combined signal stream;
- transmitting the combined signal stream to a conditional access module in charge of the access control of the combined signal stream and producing an access-allowed combined signal stream;
- receiving the access-allowed combined signal stream from the conditional access module;
- detecting the unique marking specific to each input signal stream and demultiplexing the access-allowed single combined signal stream into each access-allowed input signal stream according to their respective marking;
- restoring the initial marking into each access-allowed input signal stream;
- producing separate television program signals corresponding to the each access-allowed input signal streams; and
- supplying the separate television image to television display mechanism to produce television images.

38. (New) The method of claim 8, in which the input signal stream is formed by a plurality of signal packets each having a synchronisation byte, wherein the method further comprises the steps of :

- modifying, by the multiplexer, the synchronisation byte of the signal packet according to the input signal stream considered; and

- replacing the synchronisation byte with the unique marker pertaining to said input signal stream.

39. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein it further comprises the steps of :

- retrieving by the demultiplexer the modified synchronisation byte of the signal packets;
and
- restoring the initial value of the synchronisation byte of each signal packet while
assigning the signal packet to the corresponding access-allowed input signal stream.

40. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the multiplexing step further comprises a FIFO storage step to store signal packets while signal packets from another input signal stream is producing the combined signal stream.

41. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the input signal streams is in the format of Transport Stream TS.

42. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the signal packets are in the MPEG format.